

AGENDA ITEM V A 2

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-NEW ORLEANS

B.S. IN MATHEMATICS

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The B.S. in Mathematics program at Southern University-New Orleans was terminated by the Board of Regents in January 2006 as part of the reorganization plan for the University after the destruction caused to the institution by Hurricane Katrina. At that time, the program was also a consistent “low-completer” degree.

In May, 2008, the Regents agreed to a request from the University to reinstitute this program, under certain conditions. Specifically, the Regents acted as follows:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed B.S. program in Mathematics (CIP Code 27.0101) at Southern University-New Orleans. The University shall annually address fulfillment of program stipulations as outlined in the Staff Analysis beginning with a progress report to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs, due August 1, 2008. Depending upon the contents of this report, the Committee will consider program implementation at its August, 2008 meeting.

Staff issues which remained to be addressed prior to implementation were as follows:

- 1. Faculty – The University shall hire one, new, FT, doctoral-level Mathematics faculty prior to program implementation. A second such faculty and support personnel shall be hired in time for second year of program implementation.**
- 2. Curriculum - As currently envisioned, Math students at SUNO would be required to complete 54 hours of Math and 20 hours of Physics courses, inclusive of general education requirements, to earn this degree with a minor in physics. The number and content of required, advanced Physics (351, 451, and 460) courses, in particular, is not supported by example in similar programs at similar institutions. These course requirements would be better used to afford students essential free electives. Further, Mathematics Elective Blocks I and II should be combined into one and a total of only six hours required. The three hours freed by this change should then be reclassified as free elective. Upon these changes, hours for free electives will be increased 6 to 19 hours. These free elective should remain available for other than mathematics/physics courses. Students desiring advanced study in Math/ Physics areas beyond what is provided for above should be advised to take extra courses at their own volition, but not as part of the required program of study.**

3. Students – The University shall annually report numbers of students enrolled as majors, number of graduates, and placement of these graduates. The University shall be held fully responsible for meeting student numbers projections.

4. Library/Facilities/Equipment – The University shall annually report necessary library/equipment/facility acquisitions and improvements as envisioned in the proposal. The University shall be held fully responsible for adequately addressing resource needs in these areas.

5. Budget – The University shall annually report on the status of funding for this program, including the submission of budgets as directed. The University shall be held fully responsible for adequately addressing financial needs of this program.

The University first responded July 31st. A staff memorandum identifying unresolved areas was sent to SUNO on August 1st. A subsequent response from SUNO was received August 7th.

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Numbers of Faculty/Support Personnel

The University reports:

The University speeded up the process of approving a new mathematics position as recommended by Board of Regents. We made an offer to Dr. Tchavdar Marinov and he has accepted. Furthermore, Ms. Alia Sabur, who was listed in our program proposal, resigned her appointment at the end of the Spring 2008 semester. To maintain a balanced faculty structure, we made effort to recruit a replacement. The replacement is Dr. Delin Tan. Both new faculty will be joining the Mathematics program with effect from August 18, 2008. Their resumes are enclosed as Appendix I and II. (These documents are on file in the Office of Academic Affairs.)

When asked about the need for an additional new faculty and adequate support personnel, SUNO noted:

We have noted that one additional faculty needs to be hired by Fall 2009, according to our earlier commitment. The position has been created in our budget, and we assure you that the position will be announced in Spring 2009 and filled by Fall 2009. We will provide the evidence in our yearly progress report at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, two positions have been created in our budget for support personnel. We assure you that we will take all necessary steps to fill one position this Fall 2008 and fill the second position by Fall 2009. We expect overwhelming response on the part of students to the reinstatement of the Mathematics program, and expect enrollment to surpass our projection as the overall university enrollment continues to rise steadily. Please see the budget included in this response.

2. Curricular Refinements

The University reports:

We followed all the Board of Regents' recommendations. We removed the upper-level physics courses and replaced them with several general electives. We combined the two mathematics elective blocks and asked the students to choose two courses instead of three. The revised curriculum is attached as Appendix III. (This document is on file in the Office of Academic Affairs.) Also, the Mathematics Degree Requirements will read as follows:

- a. A student must complete a minimum of 121 semester hours and maintain a "C" or better in all science courses taken to fulfill the major requirements for the bachelors' degree. In addition, all majors must pass a written comprehensive examination. The minimum passing score is 70. Courses below mathematics 250 may not be used toward fulfillment of the requirements for mathematics majors.*
- b. A minimum of 45 semester hours in mathematics courses numbered 290 and above is required for graduation. Mandatory classes are MATH 290, 291, 292, 296, 340, 350, 360, 390, 400, 402, 403 and 460. The remaining hours must include at least two courses from the following block: MATH 392, 395, 397, 401, 450, and 470.*

3. Student Numbers

The University reports:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Headcount/ FTE</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>	<i>Number of Graduates</i>
<i>2008-2009</i>	<i>10/5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>11/7</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>13/9</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>15/10</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>17/12</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>20/13</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2014-2015</i>	<i>22/15</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>25/17</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>10</i>

4. Learning Materials

The University reports:

According to the Library Director, SUNO lost about 14,000 mathematics books when the library was flooded. The cost of these books is \$1,466,080 and FEMA has agreed to replace them. With the assurance that the two top floors of some major buildings at the Park Campus will be available by August 18, 2008, including the buildings housing the Mathematics programs, the Library Director has placed orders to replace lost books. Specifically, she confirmed that up to 1,000 volumes have been ordered for Mathematics, English and History to date, and the ordering process is continuing. With space problem now removed, FEMA funds are being applied to replace lost books, journals, equipment and supplies for all academic programs. As indicated in the budget the cost of additional mathematics books and journals is estimated at \$4,500 per year. This amount will be readily provided through FEMA funds. While some of the standard reference books and some of the "classics in the field" will be added, the major deficiency to be addressed is in the area of Mathematics journals and current papers of various types related to state-of-the-art research.

5. Budget

The University reports:

COSTS	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE
<i>Faculty</i>	\$654747	9	\$687484	9	\$721,858	9	\$757,951	9
<i>Graduate Assistants</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Support Personnel</i>	\$60,600	2	\$63630	2	\$66811	2	\$70152	2
<i>Fellowships &</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Facilities</i>	\$75,000		\$65,000		\$50,000		\$50,000	
<i>Equipment</i>	\$95,000		\$50,000		\$52,500		\$47,500	
<i>Travel</i>	\$3,500		\$3,500		\$3,500		\$3,500	
<i>Supplies</i>	\$10,000		\$15,500		\$12,500		\$10,500	
<i>Library Resources</i>	\$4,500		\$4,500		\$4,500		\$4,500	
SUB-TOTAL	\$188,000		\$138,500		\$123,000		\$116,000	
GRAND TOTAL	\$903,347		\$889,614		\$911,669		\$944,103	

REVENUE								
<i>Total Anticipated From:</i>	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%
<i>State Appropriations</i>	\$852,700	94.4	\$829,860	93.3	\$822,860	90.3	\$867,618	91.9
<i>Federal Grants/Contracts</i>	0	0	0	0	\$24,000	2.6	\$20,000	2.1
<i>State Grants/Contracts</i>	\$47,000	5.2	\$56,000	6.3	\$60,000	6.6	\$50,000	5.3
<i>Private Grants/Contracts</i>	\$3,647	0.4	\$3,754	0.4	\$4,809	0.5	\$6,485	0.7
<i>Other (specify)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$903,347	100	\$889,614	100	\$911,669	100	\$944,103	100

Before hurricane Katrina, the Mathematics Department had nine full time (tenured and tenure track), two temporary faculty, three faculty teaching remedial courses (Junior division), and other adjunct faculty members. Three faculty positions were lost due to retirement and layoffs resulting from Katrina. Three new hires were added, one in Fall 2007 and two in the Spring 2008. In the first four years of the program, it is anticipated that the department will need nine (9) full time faculty positions.

Regarding the facilities, equipment, and supplies. before Katrina, the department was well established. Each faculty used to have an office, a computer and a printer (which were replaced right before Katrina). We used to have a state –of-the-art mathematics lab with 30 new computers and an interactive Smart Board. Katrina hurricane destroyed everything. As we move into the renovated spaces by August 18, 2008, some of the teaching support systems available at the Lake Campus will be moved to the Park Campus to start off the program. We will then use FEMA funds to build the lost facilities back rapidly. We have already submitted a list of what we need to replace.

STAFF SUMMARY

The University has responded appropriately to staff concerns; ergo, the program merits implementation beginning Fall, 2008. It is imperative that the University continue annual reporting of essential data until it becomes clear that the program has fully evolved academically and is appropriately populated and productive.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee hereby authorize implementation of the B.S. program in Mathematics (CIP Code 27.0101) at Southern University-New Orleans, effective Fall, 2008. Beginning September 1, 2009, and annually on that date until otherwise directed, the University shall report to the Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs the following data:

- 1. Numbers of program enrollees and completers;*
- 2. Placement of program graduates;*
- 3. Faculty and support personnel numbers; and*
- 4. Annual program budget.*